

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 496

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Nashville Predators Foundation.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in paying tribute to the Nashville Predators Foundation, an organization committed to making its community a better place to live, not only through its own resources, but also by utilizing the public platform of a professional sports franchise to bring attention to worthy charitable projects and programs; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Predators Foundation has long been passionately involved in the civic life of Music City, and 2017 proved no exception, as the Foundation distributed a record \$500,000 in grants to 130 charitable and community service organizations; more than \$400,000 to Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt through the 365 Pediatric Cancer Fund presented by Twice Daily; \$500,000 to AMEND, enhancing that organization's visibility and awareness throughout the community; \$50,000 to the Nashville Public Education Fund as a result of the organization's Stanley Cup viewing party; more than \$100,000 to the Peterson Foundation for Parkinson's via the First Tennessee Brent Peterson Golf Tournament and Petey's Party; and a total of \$31,750 amongst ten charitable and community service organizations through the DEX Score & Win Program; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Predators Foundation also constructed its seventh KABOOM playground in six years, this time at KIPP Academy; awarded four Jack Diller Education Scholarships to deserving area graduating high school seniors; purchased \$100,000 in tickets to benefit the Give & Go Program as a result of Stanley Cup Playoff fundraising; raised a record \$96,000 over two games for Hockey Fights Cancer benefiting the 365 Pediatric Cancer Fund presented by Twice Daily; delivered food and toys to area organizations as a result of a partnership with Wal-Mart to enhance its annual food and toy drives; provided gifts and support

to seventy-five children in the 23rd District Drug Court through its Angel Tree and player holiday party; distributed memorabilia items and tickets to hundreds of area organizations to support their respective fundraising events and activities throughout the year; and renovated the bedroom of nineteen-year-old Franklin resident Krystal Adams, who is battling a brain tumor, with the help of the nonprofit corporation Special Spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation delivered more than 6,000 hours of community service through Predators staff and players in 2017, and as always, the players were generous with their time and resources, including Pekka Rinne's ongoing commitment to and leadership on behalf of the 365 Pediatric Cancer Fund presented by Twice Daily, as well as Best Buddies; Roman Josi's continuing involvement with Best Buddies, which includes hosting a buddy pair at each home game throughout the season; P.K. Subban's Blueline Buddies program, which invites and pairs up a police officer with a local teen for a dinner, game, and meet-and-greet at each home game; Anthony Bitetto, Colton Sissons, and Austin Watson teaming up to host this year's charity holiday party; Ryan Johansen's involvement and fundraising for local youth hockey; and Mattias Ekholm hosting the Make-A-Wish Hockey Clinic that sold out and raised a record amount; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation also works closely with colleagues in the Predators organization and Bridgestone Arena staff in support of the Hearts of Gold program and other outreach activities; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Foundation is excited to host a new charitable event, the Preds & Threads Fashion Show on February 23, 2018, which will feature Predator players and their significant others; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Predators Foundation is committed to serving the needs of our youth and their families through philanthropic partnerships and is deserving of our praise and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize the staff and board of directors of the Nashville Predators Foundation and its community partners and supporters for their many generous and

compassionate contributions to the greater Nashville community and wish them much continued success as they work toward another record grant distribution year in 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.